

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 00641 231026Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 996

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0641

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FOR SECRETARY FROM HINTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, OCOM, OTRA, CG

SUBJECT: MOBUTU'S SPEECH TO AAI CONFERENCE

1. FEW THINGS WOULD GIVE ME GREATER PERSONAL GRATIFICATION THAN CONVEYING YOUR VIEWS DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU. HOWEVER, THERE ARE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO SZYFISH ONE THAT THIS PLACE IS JUST NUTTY ENOUGH THAT I WOULD LIKE TO STAY HERE A BIT LONGER.

2. I'M CONVINCED WORD OF MY REACTION HAS GOTTEN TO MOBUTU, AS I HAD MEANT IT TO. BISENGIMANA ANDMOKOLO ANRE TWO OF PRESIDENT'S CLOSEST COLLABORATORS AND, GIVEN WAY THIS PLACE WORKS, MOBUTU WOULD ALMOT INSTANTLY BE ADVISED. MOREOVER, I THOUGHT IT LIKELY OFFENSIVE PARAGRAPH WAS DRAFTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER BULA AND I KNOW THAT MOKOLO, AT LEAST, WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO SPIKE BULA. IN ADDITION, HARD EVIDENCE MESSAGE GOT THROUGH IS THAT WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER BULA ARRIVED AT CLOSED AFRO-AMERICAN MEETING LATE AFTERNOON JANUARY 22, HAVING INEXPLICABLY BEEN ABSENT FROM MORNING AND EARLY AFTERNOON SESSIONS, HE TOOK CHAIR AND BEGAN REMARKS WITH DEFENSE OF MOBUTU'S SPEECH AS "NOT QUESTION OF MEDDLING IN US INTERNAL AFFAIRS"--A
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CHARGE NO ONE HAD PUBLICLY MADE.

3. THIS GRATUITOUS EXPLANATION WAS DOUBTLESS MADE ON MOBUTU'S INSTRUCTIONS, SINCE ACCORDING FRANK FERRSRI OF AAI, FOREIGN MINISTER BULA WAS UPTIGHT, FURIOUS WITH ME, AND MUTTERING ABOUT "MY THREAT TO BREAK RELATIONS."

4. YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT AFTER CHARMAN DIGGS REAFFIRMED HIS DECISION TO GO PUBLIC, I MET PRIVATELY WITH MAURICE TEMPELSMAN, WHO THIS MORNING IS HAVING BREAKFAST WITH MOBUTU, AND BRIEFED HIM ON SITUATION AS I SAW IT. HE SHARES VIEW THAT MOBUTU BUNGLED AND WAS USED BY OTHERS IN GOING ALONG WITH BAD ADVICE. HE THOUGHT SUBJECT MIGHT COME UP WITH PRESIDENT AND AGREED USE OPPORTUNITY IN HIS OWN WAY TO MAKE CLEAR TO MOBUTU WHY I WAS AND US GOVERNMENT WOULD BE RIGHTLY UPSET.

5. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR US RESOURCE INVESTMENT INTERESTS HERE IS USG, ON YOUR PERSONAL INSTRUCTIONS, SLAPS DOWN CHIEF OF STATE, I URGE RECONSIDERATION. I'LL TRY SUPPLY READ-OUT ON TEMPELSMAN-MOBUTU CONVERSATION TOMORROW, JANUARY 24 ;
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KINSHA00641
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750025-0594
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750127/aaaaaxqs.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOBUTU'S SPEECH TO AAI CONFERENCE
TAGS: PGOV, OCON, OTRA, CG, AAI, (MOBUTU SESE SEKO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006